

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended):** A method ~~[[of]]~~ for locating difficult access points from a reference point on a topological map established on the basis of a map of estimated curvilinear distances separating the points of the topological map from the reference point, comprising the steps of:

analyzing the map of curvilinear distances by means of a chamfer mask cataloging the approximate values  $C(V)$  of the Euclidean distances by separating a point  $C_{00}$  of the map from its nearest neighbors  $V$ , so as to extract therefrom, at each point  $C_{00}$  of the map of curvilinear distances, the discrepancies  ~~$(DT(V)-DT(0))$~~   $\pm DT(V)-DT(0)$  of curvilinear distances separating the point considered  $C_{00}$  from its nearest neighbors  $V$ ~~[[.]]~~<sub>i</sub>;

~~[[and]]~~ comparing ~~[[these]]~~ the discrepancies  ~~$(DT(V)-DT(0))$~~   $\pm DT(V)-DT(0)$  with the approximate values  $C(V)$  of the Euclidean distances of the chamfer mask; and

~~described~~ describing the point considered  $C_{00}$  as difficult of access when a difference appears.

2. **(Currently Amended):** The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein~~[[.]]~~ several thresholds are used during the comparison of the discrepancies of curvilinear distances and Euclidean distances, so as to devise degrees in the importance of the detour required to reach a difficult access point.

3. **(Currently Amended):** The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein~~[[.]]~~ the points of the map of curvilinear distances that are regarded as difficult of access are

located on the topological map established on the basis of the map of curvilinear distances by a pattern and/or a particular texture.

4. (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the degrees in the importance of the detour required of a difficult access point are evidenced on the topological map by different patterns and/or textures.

5. (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the chamfer mask used for the locating of the difficult access points is of dimension  $3 \times 3$ .

6. (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the chamfer mask used for the locating of the difficult access points is of dimension  $5 \times 5$ .